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All America Selections

Elmore P. Jordan
Extension Agent

Ever wonder why or how vegetables and flowers are given All America Selection honors. Well, it isn't easy. All-America Selections is an educational non-profit organization for evaluating new seed-grown flowers and vegetables from around the world. A council of judges made up of eminent horticulturists from the garden seed trade, universities, and public gardens provide the trial grounds and voluntarily conduct the many trials necessary to choose the superior varieties that will be designated "All-America Selections." Visiting AAS Trial Grounds and Display Gardens is encouraged whenever the public is in the vicinity of one. However, there are some differences in trial grounds and display gardens. Just as the name implies, trial grounds is a large spread of trial rows. They are not arranged for landscape effect, but do provide many opportunities for photographers, pleasurable sights to see, and fragrance to stimulate one's sense of smell. The trial grounds is just a small part of the total because many other horticultural workers are testing other non-AAS varieties as well to be considered as AAS winners. The display garden arranges the AAS winners winners. The display garden arranges the AAAS winners from the immediate past, present, & future years in landscape situations Some beds appear as part of the landscaping around public parks and buildings. Where display gardens are operated in conjunction with trial grounds, they are usually set off in a special place and identified with red, white, and blue AAS signs.

Display gardens offer extraordinary possibilities for photographing beautiful plants and beautiful landscape arrangements, pleasurable sights, and a sense of relaxation. Flowers are usually in bloom from April or May through late August. Trial grounds are usually open on normal business hours but rarely on week ends. Display gardens are usually part of a park or university grounds which set their open hours. One of the best times to visit is the annul "Field Day" staged by many of the gardens.

If you want more information on when to visit and what you might expect to see the following addresses are provided:

Kings Dominion
Mr. Roy G. Rector
P. O. Box 166
Ashland, Va. 23005

Norfolk Botanical Gardens
Mr. C. W. Baker, Curator
Airport Road
Norfolk, Va., 23518

Busch Gardens
Mr. William C. Shelburne,Jr.
P. O. Drawer F.C.
Williamsburg, Va. 23185

The average "incubation period" for an All-American Selection entry is five to ten years from the initial hybrid cross or single plant selection. Entries must be uniform and true, which is not easy to achieve when widely varying bloodlines are used in crosses or when a single plant is selected from a field of genetically unstable plants. As a rule, 500 to 1,000 experimental crosses or selections are required to produce a variety or hybrid of sufficient promise to warrent entering it in All-America Selections. And from the 75 to 100 vegetable and flower entries in an average year, only three or four are voted enough points to earn medals. On occasion, judges have found no entries worthy of a medal, in other years, as many as eight awards have been made. Why all this to produce new and better varieties?

The highest honor a new seed-grown garden flower or vegetable variety can receive is a medal from All-America Selections: bronze, silver, or the rarely awarded gold. For each winner, dozens of runner-ups make it to the finals but fail to garner sufficient votes for a medal. Competiton among plant breeders from seed companies, universities, government research stations, and botanical gardens is intense, for an All-America Selections medal can bring not only prestige, but also financial compensation for the arduous, expensive task of producing new varieties.

We have a judge, from the Commonwealth, on the All-America Selections Flower Trial Grounds and Judges. He is Dr. Paull L. Smeal, Department of Horticulture, VPI and SU, Blacksburg, Va. So, if you are in the area of these gardens, stop by.

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The Pastor Speaks

"HOW MUCH MORE"

If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him !" [Matt. 7:11]

All of us like to receive gifts. In fact, we are very disappointed when our birthday is forgotten. Some even harbor ill feelings toward others when this happens. What would Christmas be like if we received no gifts from anyone! Our children would be crushed, to say the least! Jesus states that God is aware of our human wants and needs. He is prepared to give to us some of each. However, it seems like we are only prepared to ask God to supply our needs and then only in an emergency. We view God as only to be called in case of emergency! This is not what Jesus taught. God stands ready to give to each of us at a moment's notice three very important gifts.

First, the gift of salvation. "For by grace are you saved through faith and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast." (Eph. 2:8-9)

Second, the gift of the Holy Spirit. "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)

Third, the gift of eternal life. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6:23)

Have you received your three gifts from God yet? You can do so right now! Invite Him into your heart and life and receive your gifts from God.

Clarence H. Davis, Pastor
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THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

THE WRONG QUESTION

Lesson for February 27, 1977

Background Scripture:
Mark 2:13 through 3:6
Luke 5:27 through 6:11
Devotional Reading:
Colossians 2:16 through 3:4

One of the problems with the Pharisees as we find them presented in the four Gospels is that they seem to be forever asking the wrong questions:

"Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with hands defiled?" (Mark 7:5)

Rev. Althouse

"By what authority are you doing these things?" (Mark 11:28)

"In the resurrection whose wife will she be?" (Mark 12:23)

"Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" (Luke 5:30)

"Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?" (Luke 20:22)

Actually, few of these questions were sincere requests for information, but attempts to trap Jesus into saying something that could be held against him. They are the kind of questions we ask when we already think think we know the answers.

So that they might accuse

This is true also when they ask Jesus about his activities on the sabbath. They would hardly have asked the questions if they thought he could give a satisfactory answer. The reason is that they knew that however much Jesus revered and obeyed the religious laws of the land, he nevertheless put something else higher than the law: God's gracious love and mercy.

He had demonstrated it when they brought to him the woman taken in adultery. He did not demean the law which provided a sentence of death by stoning, but he elevated instead the mercy of God. Therefore, they believed that to any questions where his concept of love was in conflict with the letter of the law, his responses would always lean to the former — sometimes giving the impression that he was against the keeping of the law.

Nowhere was he more plainly vulnerable, they reasoned, than in his attitude on the sabbath laws. The prohibition of labor on the sabbath was a foundation stone of the ten commandments, the basic law of Israel. Thus, when they saw his disciples picking grain on the sabbath, they felt they had caught him in an untenable position. To their question, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?", there could be only one obvious answer.

Made for man

But Jesus seldom did or said the obvious. Instead he reminded them them that the revered King David himself had violated an ecclesiastical law when, starving, he entered the sanctuary and ate the sacrificial bread that was reserved solely for the priests. The need of David was of greater importance in God's sight than the ritual law.

Actually, the great principle he was attempting to establish was simply that the law is not God and we must look behind the law to the purpose of God which it serves. "The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath" (Mark 2:27). The problem was not with the concept of the law, but that they had put the law before God.

It is still true that when religion goes wrong, often it is because men are asking the wrong questions and for the wrong reasons.

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GLADSTONE

Guests in the home of Mrs. Belle Mundy and Mr. and Mrs. Willie Cyrus over the week end were Mr. and Mrs. Jack Watts, Clarence and Joe, Mr. and Mrs. Duane Carmody and Michelle, all from Manassas, Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Watts, of Woodbridge, Mr. Dick Mundy and Wayne, from Maryland, Mr. and Mrs. Frankie Justus, Anetta, Chris and Frankie, of Lynchburg, Mr. and Mrs. William Christ and Christ Farrar of Amherst, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Justus, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Justus, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Williams, Cheryl and Renee, all from Gladstone.

We were sorry to hear that Mrs. Roy Wells is a patient in Lynchburg General Hospital. Hope you will have a quick recovery.

Visiting Mr. and Mrs. John Spiggle on Sunday was Mrs. Ronnie Tucker and Gina, Mrs. Julia Brown, Mrs. Norman Synder and Amy, all from Lynchburg; Mr. E. A. Brown, of Roanoke, spent Thursday night in the Spiggle home.

We were sorry to hear Mrs. Allen Carter is in a nursing home in Lynchburg. Hope he will soon feel better.

So sorry to hear of the death of Mrs. Robert Spiggle. We extend sympathy to the family.

Mr. Roy Harris and Doug, of Lynchburg, visited Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Harris on Saturday.

Mrs. Virginia Hunter, of Brookneal, has been spending several days in the home of Mrs. Stella Moore.

Mrs. Royal Moore spent the week end in Clifton Forge visiting relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Carmody and Michelle, of Manassas, visited Mr. and Mrs. Allen Carmody and Mike last week.

Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Harvey, of Cullen, were recent visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Moore and Vicki.

Mr. Willie Cyrus spent several days last week in Pennsylvania visiting his sister.

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Officers Elected

The Appomattox Cattlemen's Association elected its 1977 officers last Thursday last Thursday evening. Elected to serve for the new year were President, Ed Anderson; Vice President, James Ford (not pictured); Secretary, Jack Caldwell; Treasurer, Bill Williamson (not pictured); and Directors, G. D. Gilliam, Clarence White, and Chris Largiader.

Coping With The Energy Crisis

By Elmore P. Jordan
Extension Agent

During the severe winter we are facing in our area, many of our citizens almost ran out of natural gas, fuel oil or were afraid they were about to give out. This situation caused a great deal of alarm; property damage through broken waterpipes and fires, personal injury through frost bite and falls, and destruction through severe snow and ice.

Hindsight is something that we all have, but now is not the time for it. Rather, we are still faced with some rough conditions ahead. What we need to do is look at what caused many of our families to spend most or all of their money for heat and fuel. Probably, some suggestions are in order.

New homeowners have installed or had built into their homes fireplaces because of nostalgia and the desire to be heated on chilly nights with something they may have remembered in their childhoods. This is very good. However, fireplaces have been found not to be as efficient as wood stoves. The purchase of a heat-o-later for existing fireplaces and the installation of wall types when building will add greatly to the efficiency of the fireplace along with proper damper control.

Possibly, future new homebuilders will consider building a flue in a strategic place in the home. This flue could be located over a convenient place in or around the kitchen area. Along with the kitchen appliances, maybe we should give thought to purchasing a firewood cook stove.

Many dollars can be realized as savings through the use of such a stove. The cost of electricity, although the most efficient means of heat, is still very expensive. Firewood is readily available, and during warmer months, firewood could be gathered. This winter, around city areas, the dumps that wood is normally deposited at as trash, were cleaned of materials from wood using and producing factories. Sawmills that normally gave away trash lumber began selling it. However, many National Forests let people cut free, this winter, the firewood they wanted.

The cookstove is also used as a heat source for the rest of the home; thereby cutting down on the amount of electricity used. Now, there are cautions to be observed concerning young children. But most safety observations are common sense.

In many homes, the answer to the energy cost may be the installation or addition of another flue. There are many young people that remember when we did not depend so heavily on other sources of energy. This is probably a good idea to start now to look for readily available, renewable energy sources. WE are more fortunate than our city relatives in that we can convert easily to other sources as opposed to apartment dwellers. But we must begin to act now before we experience another winter like the one we are experiencing. If we really want to save energy, let's look at the temperature setting on our hot water heaters in our homes, garages and on farms.

Put the thermostat at 140° F and see what happens. We must start taking action to reduce the cost of maintaining our homes. How about electric lights. Take a count twice in the evening, once before supper and once around eight P.M. and ask why do we have so many on? How about the laundry, maybe we should us lower water temperatures or just wash with cold water. During the summer, we might want to hang our clothes out to dry instead of using a dryer--we do want to save don't we? Oh! How about that electric range? Do we use too large a pan on too small an eye, or too small a pan on too large an eye. If we are going to use electric energy to cook with, consider using our appliances expecially built for frying, making coffee, popping popcorn, toasting toast, and the ever present deep fryer--these items are efficient users of electric energy. How about planting some trees to stop the cold wind from battering our homes in the future, at least we'll slow it down some. Also, let's plant some shrubs close in. Speaking of wind, insulation of our homes, garages and other buildings can save a lot of money. If the curtains move when the wind blows, we know we need to consider doing something! If we can see daylight in our doorsills or door frames, it is safe to assume that cold air is pouring in also. We need to do something! Let's consider storm windows, storm doors, caulking the door mouldings, window frames, using insulation, checking the roof and fresh air vents. Irregardless of what action we take, let's do something to conserve energy and spend less of our already tight family budget on energy. So many home that tried to budget for costs had their budgets shattered because of the expense of energy. Before closing, we can see the handwriting on the wall for the cost of fresh and processed fruits and vegetables for this summer, fall and next winter. Let's start now to think about a garden to produce some vegetables so we can either can or freeze them to use later on. Many of us were caught unaware this time, but now we can forsee the problems that lie ahead as far as energy and food is concerned. Let's do something about it!

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